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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTONSECRET
Security Information

February 11, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: The Use of Radio as a Medium for Psychological Operations and the Impact of Its Use on National Security

REFERENCES: A. Memo for NSC from Executive Secretary, subject, "The Need for Immediate Review and Later Establishment of National Policy on the Use of Radio as a Medium for Psychological Operations and the Impact of Its Use on National Security", dated February 5, 1953
B. NSC 137 and NSC 137/1

The National Security Council and the Secretary of the Treasury at the Council meeting on February 11, discussed the subject on the basis of Reference A, and agreed:

- a. That the Director of Central Intelligence should be requested to prepare within sixty days a coordinated assessment of the capabilities and probable intentions of the Soviet orbit for electromagnetic warfare.
- b. That the President's Committee on International Information Activities should be requested to transmit as soon as possible to the National Security Council on evaluation, prepared in consultation with the Telecommunications Adviser to the President, of the use of radio as a medium for psychological operations, particularly:
 - (1) Its value in relation to other media.
 - (2) The effect of curtailment as suggested in NSC 137.
 - (3) Limitations placed upon the extent and flexibility of its use by such things as Soviet countermeasures, international agreements, adverse effect on friendly nations, and difficulties caused to other U.S. radio services.
- c. That the question of technical policy in the use of radio for the preservation of the national security, including U.S. programs for effectuating such policy, should be referred to the Telecommunications Adviser to the President,

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for recommendations to be prepared in consultation with all interested departments and agencies and the President's Committee on International Information Activities, and to be submitted to the National Security Council at the earliest possible date.

The Council also noted the President's desire that the above studies should include examination of (1) U.S. capability for retaliatory jamming of Soviet communications, (2) desirability of continued U.S. action in order to increase the burden upon the USSR of conducting jamming activities, (3) effect on Soviet communications intelligence activities of Soviet jamming of Western communications, and (4) necessity for continued U.S. effort to find technical means for countering Soviet jamming.

Accordingly, the action in a above is transmitted herewith for appropriate implementation.

JAMES S. LAY, Jr.
Executive Secretary

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